

FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT ON BILL NO. **S.127**

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TO:	The Honorable Glenn McConnell, Chairman, Senate Judiciary Committee		
FROM:	Office of State Budget, Budget and Control Board		
ANALYSTS:	Allan Kincaid		
DATE:	January 26, 2009	SBD:	2009041

AUTHOR:	Senator Sheheen	PRIMARY CODE CITE:	14-17-10
SUBJECT:	Election of County Officials		

ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT ON GENERAL FUND EXPENDITURES:
See Below

ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT ON FEDERAL & OTHER FUND EXPENDITURES:
See Below

BILL SUMMARY:

The proposed Bill amends Sections 14-17-10 and 14-23-1020, of the Code of Laws of South Carolina, 1976, relating to the election of clerks of court and probate judges, so as to require the elections of these two county offices to be nonpartisan.

EXPLANATION OF IMPACT:

A review of this Bill by the State Election Commission indicates that because candidates for clerks of court and probate judges will now be elected in non-partisan elections, primary filing fees from candidates will no longer be collected. This will result in a loss of approximately \$130,000 in primary filing fees to the agency. Due to this loss in revenue, there will be an additional cost to the General Fund of the State for \$130,000 to conduct statewide primaries. While there is a cost associated with conducting statewide primaries, the funding for statewide elections should be sufficient to cover this cost.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT IMPACT:

The impact on local governments should be minimal assuming the elections are held at the same time as the general election. If special elections or runoffs are necessary there would be an additional cost to the counties.

SPECIAL NOTES:

None.

Approved by:



Harry Bell
Assistant Director, Office of State Budget